

The Southeastern Librarian

Volume 57 | Issue 4

Article 4

Winter 2010

State News

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Recommended Citation

(2010) "State News," *The Southeastern Librarian*: Vol. 57 : Iss. 4 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/seln/vol57/iss4/4>

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Alix Bentrud joins the Lyrasis Preservation Services Team as Preservation Services Librarian, bringing an extensive knowledge of preservation and archival principles and techniques. Prior to joining Lyrasis, she worked as a Preservation Program Specialist for Preservation Technologies L.P. She brings experience with collections care, creating protective enclosures, and preparing materials for digitization, as well as disaster planning and preservation education. Alix received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Rosary College (IL) and her Certificate of Advanced Studies in Archives and Preservation Management from the University of Pittsburgh. She may be contacted at alix.bentrud@lyrasis.org.

Rhoda Mayfield joins the Lyrasis Member Outreach Team as Member Products and Services Consultant, bringing 13 years of expertise in identifying curriculum needs and providing materials for libraries and academic institutions. Prior to joining Lyrasis, she held positions as Senior Account Field Executive and Curriculum Specialist with Thomson Gale (now Cengage Learning). Rhoda achieved top sales performer recognition as a member of the Thomson Gale National Curriculum Team. Formerly the Account Automation Executive at the Follett Corporation, she also assisted librarians and coordinators in the automation of libraries. She may be contacted at rhoda.mayfield@lyrasis.org.

Lyrasis Announces New Director of Information Technology

Lyrasis announces that **Dee Anderson** is the new Lyrasis Director of Information Technology. Dee brings 17 years of senior information technology leadership experience across multiple industries to her new position. Prior to joining Lyrasis, she was Director of Enterprise Sales Technology for Intercontinental Hotels Group, Atlanta, GA; Technical Product Manager for John H. Harland Company, Atlanta, GA; Director of Enterprise Application Support for Innotrak Corporation, Atlanta, GA, among other positions.

She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Finance from the University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL and is a member of the

Project Management Institute (PMI) of Atlanta, GA.

As Lyrasis Director of Information Technology, she is responsible for leading a team of IT professionals to manage operations, develop solutions, and support Lyrasis; for designing, introducing, and implementing technology solutions and services; and for maintaining high levels of support services to external members and internal customers. She may be contacted at dee.anderson@lyrasis.org.

STATE NEWS

ALABAMA

Birmingham Public Library Map Collection

By Hannah K. Wolfson, Birmingham News, December 26, 2009

George Stewart holds a German map from 1828 to the light in a search for clues to its origin. Stewart, the former director of the Birmingham Public Library, is helping catalogue the library's immense, valuable collection of old and rare maps. Understanding the maps in the storage room at the Birmingham Public Library takes a lot more than just knowing where north is.

First, a team of librarians has to try to figure out each document's true date. Then they have to figure out what the map depicts, who drew it, and why it's important. Finally, they try to find out which other institutions have copies -- and often, there are only a handful of these rare maps around.

"When you find something and the only other one is at Harvard or Yale or the Library of Congress, you feel pretty good," said George Stewart.

Stewart, the library's former director, is helping with the Herculean task of inventorying and cataloguing the library's immense collection of historic maps -- more than 5,000 in all. So far, they've gone through about 1,100 and say they still don't know what treasures they could find.

"We're doing this catch as catch can," said Debbie Dahlin, collection management

coordinator for the Birmingham Public Library. "It's kind of overwhelming. There's just so much work that needs to be done."

Library officials are applying for grants to help pay for more staff to help with the project. For now, Dahlin, Stewart, retired specials collections librarian Linda Cohen and Ben Petersen, who runs the Department of Southern History, spend about two days a week working in the map room.

Meanwhile, some maps are deteriorating unseen, and Dahlin said that even when they find a map that needs help (as an example she displays the only known copy of an 1833 map of the Creek territory in Alabama, which has pieces flaking off) there's not enough money for serious conservation.

The maps were bequeathed to the library by four Alabamians with formidable private collections: investment banker Rucker Agee; industrialist Joseph H. Woodward II; Dr. Charles Ochs; and John Henley, part of the family for whom the library's archive, Linn-Henley, is named. The general focus is on Alabama or the South, but there also are world maps dating as far back as the 1500s.

Many of the maps came to the library in the 1960s and have rarely been looked at since. There are old-fashioned card catalogues for some, but until the project began, few had been scanned into a computer and many were still unknown.

In some cases, such as a 1628 map that depicts Europe as a regal woman -- Spain is the red-crowned head, Italy an outstretched arm -- the maps are works of art. Others are bedecked with images: sea monsters in unknown waters, cannibals cooking up a feast, and even, in another disturbing illustration, slaves being captured.

There are pocket-sized books that unfold into giant maps designed for 19th-century travelers. There are ancient atlases that date to 1561 and show a new way of looking at the world. There are British military maps from the American Revolution and a slew of maps that show the evolution of Alabama's counties and place names; one even marks Shades Creek as S. Hades Creek -- which could be a typo or an unknown piece of history.

And sometimes, it's just a tiny bit of text that brings real value, such as an 1837 drawing of St. Louis's harbor. Close scrutiny reveals the engineer was a young Robert E. Lee.

The dollar value of the collection is beyond estimation, said Dahlin, who called it "priceless." For some idea, consider the fact that the library has a copy of one of the most famous atlases ever, the 11-volume 1662 atlas of the world by the Dutch mapmaking family Blaeu. A similar version is priced at \$750,000 on one dealer's Web site.

Knowing they're sitting on a goldmine, library officials have outfitted the map room with a security code and banks of cameras and have put most of the material off-limits until cataloguing is complete. About 900 of the maps are available online through the library's digital collection. The ultimate goal is to allow researchers access to the maps themselves so they can uncover more about their true stories.

"I don't think people realize what we have," said Cohen. "I think it's something that we owe the community. We owe the people who gave them to the library."

Pleasure Island Libraries Rock!

The **Thomas B. Norton Public Library** and **Orange Beach Public Library** have earned national recognition for library service in the *Library Journal Index of Public Library Service, 2009, Round 2*. This system scrutinizes statistics which describe library service outputs -- library visits, items checked out (circulation), public Internet computer usage and program attendance. With only five libraries in Alabama receiving Star rankings (and only 12 in the southeast), the community can be proud that two top ranking libraries are here on the Island.

The *LJ Index* only gives five, four, or three stars to the top 258 libraries. According to the article, some libraries received lower scores than in the first *LJ Index* ratings issued in February, in which Orange Beach ranked as a 3-Star Library and Gulf Shores as a 2-Star. While a lower index score does not mean the library's actual performance decreased in 2007 rather it reflects the stiffer competition that additional libraries introduce into the mix. With 7,268 libraries in the mix, Orange Beach's ranking went from a 3-

Star to a 5-Star, the highest ranking obtainable. Gulf Shores performance also increased from a 2-Star to a 4-Star rating.

This second round of the *LJ Index* rankings is based on 2007 data, predating the recession's onset. Libraries nationwide "are adapting to dramatic economic changes – static or reduced resources despite predictably increased public demand for library services," according to the article. Bonnie Lee, Director of the Orange Beach Public Library, noted that "as of the end of September 4,223 more people have walked through our doors than our total visits of 2008. With a tighter budget we are facing challenges to continue the top-ranked services for our community. Among the challenges our libraries face is to continue meeting the needs of our customers in a tough economy, keeping up with and coordinating the information explosion, serving as backup for school libraries and keeping entertainment and enrichment programs alive."

Over in Gulf Shores, Thomas B. Norton Public Library Director Wendy Congiardo attributes much of the library's continuing success and growth to the support of the community, which is bolstered by outreach programming that the library is able to provide. "We strive to present the community with a wide array of opportunities to learn and to enjoy themselves at our library," says Congiardo. As one of only nine "Spotlighted" libraries in this issue of *LJ Index*, Thomas B. Norton Public Library has set a standard for continuing excellent service, even as library traffic increases and the information needs of patrons grow and change. The public libraries in both Orange Beach and Gulf Shores will strive to maintain stellar examples of library service with ongoing support from our great community.

FLORIDA

African American Legacy: The Carol Mundy Collection Acquired by University of Central Florida Libraries.

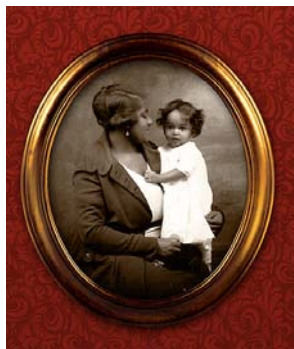
African American Legacy: The Carol Mundy Collection has been acquired by the University of Central Florida Libraries. It is being curated and housed in Special Collections and University Archives.

The collection was assembled over a period of seventeen years of intensive research by Ms. Carol Mundy, an avid collector. She began collecting about 1993 with a purchase of a 1901 edition of the *Complete Life of William McKinley and Story of His Assassination*. Inside the book, she discovered a yellowed document from 1870. It was a correspondence from the U.S. Army to a soldier in the 10th Cavalry – known today as the "Buffalo Soldiers." This discovery sparked a passion to preserve black culture and heritage which continues today, therefore the Collection shall continue to grow. Also, the Collection will be the cornerstone for building a larger collection of African American material.

Ms. Mundy's collection consists of books and pamphlets, magazines and periodicals, photographs, and images, illustrations, and documents and papers. The pre-1800 papers and documents consist of noteworthy collections of images and documents from the slavery era, including pre-Civil War daguerreotypes and glass lantern slides; Civil War era illustrated covers; an assortment of lithographic images depicting scenes from the slavery era; published speeches and articles related to the political turmoil that the issue of slavery produced; more than two dozen vintage newspapers; and original legal documents related to slavery.

Issues of *The London Magazine or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer* from the 18th century that cover the slave trade in the Americas and the Caribbean are also included. Late 19th Century materials include items related to military records for members of the 9th and 10th Cavalry. One of the rarest items is an 1873 muster roll from the 24th Infantry, known today as the Buffalo Soldiers, signed by the commander, Abner Doubleday. Also included are books and pamphlets produced by the American Colonization Society.

There is Florida primary source material, covering 1859-1960s, related to the black community of Apopka, near Orlando. Original papers and documents of particular interest are in the name of Ella Walls, a member of the Apopka community whose persona was adapted by Zora Neale Hurston for a character in *Mules and Men*.



Mother with Child, circa 1920-1927; sepia

The Collection is unusually rich in its visual images and includes more than 600 photographic portraits of average individuals and well-known personalities, workers, sheet music illustrations, stereotypic and derogatory images, postcards and signs, from the late 19th and early 20th century period. Laila Miletic-Vejzovic, Head of the UCF Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, considers this to be one of the strengths of the Mundy Collection.

One of the more interesting parts of the collection is a series of photographs related to William T. Vernon, a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and a missionary to South Africa during the 1920s.

There is also a fine collection of 20th Century printed materials related to black culture of the period and focuses on civil rights and black power movements.

GEORGIA

Meet Consumer Ed

The Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs has created a special web site www.ConsumerEd.com designed to help Georgians and others become smarter consumers. This site can be utilized by libraries to meet various patron needs.

Created especially with young adults in mind, the website has a colorful, dynamic design featuring a friendly, redheaded guide named Consumer Ed, who walks consumers through major purchasing and financial decisions, such as buying a car, purchasing a house, renting an apartment, dealing with credit and debt,

managing money, and avoiding foreclosure.

In addition to comprehensive information in key topic areas (Car, Home, Credit&Debt, Finances 101), the site features current consumer news, financial calculators, and the option to join a Consumer Alert ListServ, whereby subscribers can have important consumer news emailed to them each month.

ConsumerEd.com is a valuable tool that can help consumers learn to make wise purchasing and financial decisions, know their rights, and avoid becoming victims of scams or deceptive practices in the marketplace.

East Cobb Library opens

The Merchant's Walk Library closed, Jan. 22 2010 at 6 p.m. and re-opened as the 'East Cobb Library,' Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. in its new location. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place March 9 at 2 p.m.

The Cobb County Public Library System's East Cobb Library is located at 4880 Lower Roswell Rd. in Marietta in the Parkaire Shopping Center, less than two miles from its previous location.

The East Cobb Library, designed to meet the current and future library needs of the community, is 16,684 square feet. The facility will include a multi-purpose room, children's activity room, teen space, study rooms, vending area, and self-checkout.

For information, visit the Cobb County Public Library System web site at www.cobbcat.org.



East Cobb resident **Nancy Clark** volunteered to unpack books. Clark, a volunteer with the Cobb County Public Library System for four months, said it is her way to give back to the community. (Photo by Erika Ruthman/CCPLS)



Marcy Nader the former Merchant's Walk Library branch manager, now a library volunteer. Nader said, "It is so nice to move into a nice, clean, spacious library and I am so glad to be a part of it."

Book Clubs That Bond

The year 1996 gripped news airways as one of the most dangerous for Mount Everest summit climbs resulting in 15 lives lost during the season. One of the most famous Mount Everest attempts involved a team of climbers caught in a perilous storm on the peak that lies between Nepal and Tibet. Emily Weathers' son, Beck, was among them.

At the time, she lived in a suburb outside of Atlanta when she was notified, initially, that her son was dead. The story of the climb spread quickly throughout newspapers and T.V. stations. Weathers shared the grim news with friends, including those at the Vinings Library Book Club.

Weathers, a soft-spoken woman with a subtle Southern drawl, said she continues to meet with the book club that long ago shared the burden of those painful memories, largely because of the work put into the club by its leader, Diane Payton.

As Payton, a Vinings Library Associate and Vinings resident prepared for the morning book club meeting, she said she remembered Weathers coming into the library more than 10 years ago to say her son had died.

Weathers said, "When he was on the mountain they called us and told us he was dead. However, in [less than] 24 hours, they called back and told us that he wandered into the high camp. He was

not as dead as they thought he was."

Officials notified Weathers that her son was alive on Mother's Day. "But, they did not give us much hope that he would live through the night. They put him in a tent by himself to let him die," she said, "but he was not ready. It was a bad night, but he survived it."

Once life got back to normal for the Weathers family, the Vinings book club selected Jon Krakauer's, *'Into Thin Air,'* a book chronicling the climb.

It was a good time to read the book, Payton said, because Weathers could offer her personal insight about the climb to the book group and because Emily led a fascinating life which she shares with the group.

Weathers added that it is not only her, but all of the Vinings Book Club members bring their experiences to meetings. "We have learned a lot from each other," Payton said.

When the book club members read, *'Mountains beyond Mountains,'* a member shared photos of her husband who, as a doctor, volunteered in Africa at hospitals. When they read a book on Japan, Weathers shared her experiences of living there, while another member shared her story as an art student living in Pakistan.

Payton said, after her mother died, the group donated money to an animal shelter because of the love Payton and her mother shared for animals.

The book club members not only share memories but they also make memories by holding holiday and birthday parties, and sometimes even going away parties, as they did for a member who returned to her Switzerland home. "We even celebrated my 90th birthday together," Weathers said.

As the Vinings Book Club members trickled into the meeting room one by one for the 10:30 a.m. meeting Payton looked on and said, "I think our group is actually an extended family."

“We are very diverse but respect each other's opinions,” Payton said, “We may not always agree ... but we are accepting of each other.”

Story by Erika Ruthman
Cobb County Public Library System

KENTUCKY

University of Louisville Digital Collections

The University of Louisville Libraries is pleased to announce the addition of four new collections to our Digital Collections at <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/>, and major updates to two existing collections:

The Dwight Anderson Music Library Collection (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/music/>) includes a guest book containing more than 900 signatures from visitors to the University of Louisville School of Music over a sixty year period (1948-2009), including guest artists, composers, lecturers, and dignitaries. Full-text searchable documents accompany the signature pages, listing out the signatories by page number (Index by page), alphabetically by last name (Alphabetical index), and with annotations (Annotated List).

The August 2009 Flood Collection (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/flood/>) contains 210 selected digital images and 3 digital videos from an archived community collection devoted to documenting one of the worst floods in Louisville's history. A Google map (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/flood/mapped.php>) links the flood images with their locations.

The André Jeunet Collection (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/jeunet/>) of 205 images captured by French soldier André Jeunet (1896-1979) during World War I includes pictures of soldiers and civilians in northeastern France in 1915-1917 and the Balkans in 1917-1919.

The Royal Photo Company Collection (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/royal/>) debuts with 1850 images taken by the Louisville, Kentucky commercial photo studio

between 1937-1946. The remaining negatives (dating through 1972) are being scanned in chronological order, and the digital collection will be updated in phases as groups of scans are cataloged and completed.

88 portraits from H. Levins Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky have been added to the Law Library Collection (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/law/>).

69 images of campus buildings have been added to University of Louisville Images (<http://digital.library.louisville.edu/collections/uoflimages/>).

MISSISSIPPI

EMCC Joins MSU-led Regional Library Consortium

Administered and maintained by Mississippi State University, the Golden Triangle Regional Library Consortium is adding East Mississippi Community College as its newest member. EMCC President Rick Young joined MSU President Mark Keenum recently in making the announcement.

Established in 1993 with initial participation from MSU and Mississippi University for Women, the Consortium provides a central database that allows patrons to access resources available at participating libraries in the Golden Triangle area.

Starkville High School, Armstrong Middle School, the Tombigbee Regional Library System, and the Oktibbeha-Starkville Public Library all are members, and each has added bibliographic and patron databases to the comprehensive computer server used for its circulation, online catalog, acquisitions, and serials system needs.

In August, the databases for both Mayhew and Scooba EMCC campuses were integrated into the library server housed at Mississippi State University Libraries.

“This consortium is a wonderful example of sharing resources and creating efficiencies that benefit students in area schools,” said MSU

President Mark Keenum. "We're pleased that EMCC has become the newest member."

Donna Ballard, EMCC's district librarian, said the Consortium "provides an opportunity to work with other libraries in the area and offers easy access to resources throughout the Golden Triangle." She added: "Our patrons not only will have access to the collections at the other member libraries, but we also will be able to share out collection with others."

Stephen Cunetto, MSU Libraries' Administrator of Systems, said one-stop searching is a key advantage of the consortium. "One of the goals always has been to provide seamless access to resources throughout the Golden Triangle," he noted. "No longer does a student have to search multiple databases to identify a library in the area that has the materials they need. During these economic times it makes even more sense to work together and to share our materials and our technical expertise."



"Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum (seated, right) shakes hands with EMCC President Rick Young after signing the Consortium agreement. EMCC's Donna Ballard and MSU's Stephen Cunetto stand behind the presidents. Photo credit: Kristen Hines Baker, Mississippi State University Relations

For more information on the Golden Triangle Regional Library Consortium and on MSU Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/gtrlc>.

MSU Libraries Joins Contemporary Japan Program

Want to learn about Japanese history, art, culture, politics, and more? Come to Mississippi State University Libraries.

MSU Libraries was recently named a recipient of the Nippon Foundation's "100 Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan," a collection of books written by experts in their respective fields chosen specifically to help non-experts gain a basic understanding of Japan.

Donated free to select university libraries, this prestigious collection contains works such as Kenneth Pyle's *Japan Rising, the Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose* and *Tsukiji: The Fish Market at the Center of the World* by Theodore Bestor and is intended to expand international knowledge of Japan and to craft a clearer, more comprehensive understanding of contemporary Japan that transcends stereotypes and out-dated ideas.

"The interdisciplinary nature of these books will benefit many programs from a variety of departments across MSU's campus," said David Nolen, MSU Libraries' humanities reference librarian. "Being able to provide access to these great resources will greatly help us support MSU's educational and scholarly goals."

For more information on MSU Libraries, please visit <http://library.msstate.edu/>.



Pictured here with a portion of the Nippon Foundation donation are (l to r) Pat Matthes, MSU Libraries' Associate Dean for Technical Services; Brian Watkins, MSU's Director of International Business; Jack Jordan, Head of

MSU's Department of Foreign Languages; and David Nolen, MSU Libraries' humanities reference librarian.

Pearl Library Partners with O'Charley's

The Pearl Public Library stepped out of the box and took the hand extended by a large restaurant chain to help with a reading program that spanned several months. Mara Villa, Youth Services Coordinator, spearheaded the event called the 1,000 Page Challenge that started Sept. 7 and ended Dec. 11. The event culminated with a luncheon and awards ceremony held at O'Charley's, in Pearl, on Dec. 16.

Twelve Rankin County children rose to the challenge and went far beyond the 1,000 pages. The 12 children combined read more than 49,000 pages. They were featured on the front page of the local paper, the *Rankin Ledger* on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2010.



The winners were treated to anything on the O'Charley's menu and given free kids' meals bookmark coupons. The Friends of the Pearl Library also donated prizes. One of the friends personally donated 1,000 pennies in a fishbowl.

It was the first time the library had partnered with a business to sponsor a children's reading program, said Mara. It so happened that an O'Charley's representative was in the library and asked how the restaurant could help. The

traditional children's reading program season was over, but Mara jumped at the opportunity to get a company involved in one. It was a tremendous success. As a result, Mara learned that teaming up with local companies, whenever possible, can prove significantly fruitful for libraries, and that "reading programs should not be limited to the summer."

Pearl Public Library belongs to Central Mississippi Regional Library System which serves the public libraries in Rankin, Scott, Simpson, and Smith counties.

Grand Re-opening Planned at Bay Library

The wait is over for customers of the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library as the 18,000 sq. ft. headquarters branch at 312 Hwy 90 in Bay St. Louis formally re-opened Friday, January 29th. The grand re-opening ceremonies began with a special showing of the film, *Mississippi Son*, which documents local residents' experiences with Hurricane Katrina. Later, a special after-school puppet show by A Abrakadoodle, with string marionettes, was presented in the new glassed-in children's area. The formal ribbon-cutting followed.



More than 40 children attended the puppet show by A Abrakadoodle at the opening festivities for

the grand re-opening celebration of the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library.

The building, which suffered wind and water damage from Hurricane Katrina, has undergone an extensive renovation. All of the damaged sheetrock, ceiling tiles, carpet and flooring have been replaced, and a new roof and HVAC system were installed. Many of the massive sheet glass windows in the library were also replaced and sealed, and both the exterior and interior received a new paint job. According to Library Executive Director Patty Furr, "This project has put our building back in tip-top shape, and we hope to get many good years of service from the beautiful new space." Because of the damage from flooding, most of the library furniture was damaged, and a new light maple design was chosen to replace it.

The floor plan of the new space is completely different as well. "This new design is based on a bookstore model," according to Furr, "Our library customers are telling us that they value both comfort and convenience in their library space. We have very comfortable lounge chairs, spacious booths where patrons can plug in a wireless laptop or read the paper, and a new 'action alley' with all of our newest selections right up front. Customers can stop in, pick out the latest DVDs, CD books and bestsellers, check them out and be on their way."

A library café which is coming in late February or early March will offer different types of coffee, cappuccino, chilled juices and baked goods for the public to enjoy, and a new 24-person public computer center. "Our computer workstations stay busy all the time," Furr continued. "We hope the new fully automated computer center will help lessen or even eliminate the wait time to use a library computer." A new print management and PC reservation system keeps track of each customer's time and logs each user off as their time is completed. Printing in both color and black-and-white will also be available for a nominal fee.



Saying goodbye to the trailer that served as the temporary Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library for a year and a half was taken away in January as the Katrina Repair Project was completed in the building. Waving goodbye are library employees, from left, Adrienne Bradley, Joel Johnston, Sue Favre and Pam May. Stride into Ragtime and Jazz at Mississippi State University Libraries

The new library space also contains the Margaret Hicks Shadoin children's area which has been both enlarged and glassed-in to give children a larger space to enjoy and adult readers a much quieter space outside the children's domain. "Our customers' number one request on community surveys was to have a separate children's area with sound buffering," said Furr. "I believe that this new division of services will be an advantage for each age group." The new children's room features a fairy tale fantasy land call "Once Upon a Time in Bay St. Louis" which was funded with a grant from the Foundation for the Mid-South. It contains a full-size, very realistic Bay St. Louis oak tree, which doubles as a puppet theater; the façade from a typical Bay St. Louis cottage; a child-sized gingerbread house; and shelf ends that feature Jack's Beanstalk and a larger-than-life Peter Rabbit and his carrot garden.

Library Board of Trustee Chair Dolly Lundberg comments, "We believe this new library space has something for everyone. We hope that the public will stop by and see the new space and sign up to get a library card to enjoy."

The new library is open to the public from 9-7 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-5 on Wednesdays and Friday, and 10-4 on Saturdays.

The Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival Returns to MSU's Campus

Music will once again float through the air at Mississippi State University Libraries and Lee Hall Auditorium when the glorious sounds of ragtime return to MSU's campus for the 4th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival to be held March 26 & 27, 2010.

Fast becoming a one-of-a-kind musical celebration, this Mississippi State University-based festival – sponsored by MSU Libraries and the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum – features some of ragtime, jazz, stride and boogie-woogie's most accomplished performers. Concerts, mini-concerts, and lectures center around the unique Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Collection housed in the MSU Libraries. The Collection – comprised of 22,000 pieces of sheet music, 15,000 playable musical items, and almost 200 musical instruments ranging from the 1880s to the 1930s – documents a distinctly American approach to the "business of music." The Collection's sheet music, phonographs, victrolas, memorabilia, and other artifacts will transport Festival attendees back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Participants in the 4th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival will enjoy high-energy concerts in MSU's historic Lee Hall Auditorium, and they will experience intimate artist performances and lectures in MSU Libraries' John Grisham Room. Complementing the music, the Festival also highlights the rollicking culture of the times through tours of the Charles H. Templeton, Sr. Music Museum. Noted collector and historian David A. Jasen, author of definitive reference works on ragtime, puts the music, the composers, and the culture into lively perspective.

Those who love music—and those who simply love a good time—will not want to miss this signature musical experience. While the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival is rooted in ragtime music, the phenomenal artists perform in a wide variety of styles, including jazz, stride, blues and boogie-woogie. Join the Festival for a day's events, for a single evening's concert, or for the entire two-day Festival. A gift shop will be open with plenty of the performer's compact discs to purchase, and a full schedule of spirit-lifting musical performances will keep the Festival moving.



The 4th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival is bringing to Starkville five outstanding artists of the ragtime and jazz genres. Hailed by the press as one of the best ragtime pianists in the world, [Frederick Hodges](#) is sought after by today's foremost orchestras, festivals, conductors, and collaborative musicians. His artistry, virtuosity, and charisma have brought him to the world's most renowned stages, leaving audiences around the globe captivated. One of the most highly regarded authorities on ragtime music, David Jasen is also a collector of books, recordings, piano rolls, sheet music, periodicals, and catalogs that cover the gamut of American popular music. An adviser to the Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival since its inception, Jasen brings an extraordinary knowledge of ragtime and its history, enriching the Festival experience and providing a dimension rarely seen in other festivals. British-born [Carl Sonny Leyland](#), returning in his second Templeton Festival appearance, is considered one of today's great boogie-woogie pianists. He has lectured widely on the history of the blues and boogie woogie piano and is known as one of the few pianists able to recreate the sounds of boogie-woogie giants such as Albert Ammons, Meade Lux Lewis, Pete Johnson, and Jimmy Yancey. Eighteen-year-old Adam Swanson, from Shenandoah, Iowa, is quickly becoming known as one of the world's foremost performers of American ragtime music. In May of 2008, Swanson became the youngest-ever pianist to win Peoria, Illinois' World-Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest. [Terry Waldo](#) is considered one of America's premiere performers and presenters of ragtime and early jazz. Known for his virtuoso ragtime and stride piano playing, charming vocals, and disarming wit, Waldo is the protégé of the legendary Eubie Blake, who called Waldo "an extension of my own musical self."

The Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. For more information on the 4th Annual Charles Templeton Ragtime Jazz Festival, please visit the Festival website at <http://library.msstate.edu/ragtime/festival/> or contact Lyle Tate at 662-325-2559 or ltate@library.msstate.edu.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Library Festival

John Grisham, Elizabeth Edwards and Pulitzer Prize winners Douglas Blackmon, Rick Bragg and Elizabeth Strout were among authors featured at the North Carolina Literary Festival Sept. 10-13.

Others among the 102 authors appearing at the free public festival, held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, included Will Blythe, author of the Carolina-Duke basketball rivalry tome "To Hate Like This Is to Be Happy Forever," former North Carolina Poet Laureate Fred Chappell, forensic anthropologist Kathy Reichs and favorite North Carolina novelists Doris Betts and Clyde Edgerton.

The festival, whose theme is "A Celebration of Reading and Writing," included author readings and talks across the campus. Exhibits, performances, book signings, sales and children's activities also will take place, said festival director Amy Baldwin.

The libraries of UNC and Duke and North Carolina State universities, with additional support from North Carolina Central University, organized and sponsored the festival, whose location rotates biennially among the Carolina, Duke and NCSU campuses. Since the festival began, it has been held in 1998 and 2002 at Carolina, 2004 at NCSU and 2006 at Duke. The festival is supported by private gifts and grants.

Authors newly named for the festival, with capsule biographies and Web sites where available, are listed in an accompanying release. More information is available at www.NCLiteraryFestival.org.

World War I Postcards to go Online

About 2,000 postcards from the First World War made their Internet debut this past Veterans Day on the Web site of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/graypc/>.

The postcards are the first of nearly 6,400 that the library plans to digitize by June 2010.

They are drawn from the Bowman Gray Collection of World Wars I and II in the Rare Book Collection of the Wilson Special Collections Library. The Bowman Gray Collection features 16,000 graphic images from the wars including prints, postcards and posters.

The digitized postcard collection, when completed, will be the largest such presentation on the Web.

Bowman Gray attended UNC in the 1890s. The native of what was then Winston, N.C., went on to become president and chairman of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. and was a major benefactor to both UNC and Wake Forest University.

Digital Launch Celebrates 80th Anniversary of UNC's Southern Historical Collection

Eighty years after its founding in January 1930, the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Wilson Special Collections Library is inaugurating a program to digitize large segments of the collections.

The Digital Southern Historical Collection debuted Jan. 8 with thirty-five collections digitized in their entirety, plus two more that have been partially digitized. The 8,627 scans reproduce diaries, letters, business records and photographs.

The Southern Historical Collection, with nearly 16 million items, is one of the country's largest centers for primary source documents about the on collections documenting African American Life and race relations in the American South.

Read more:

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/blogs/news/index.php/2010/01/digital-shc/>

NCSU Libraries and Physics Department Partner to Save Students and Families \$\$\$'s

Two of the most tech-savvy units at North Carolina State University are working together to keep up to \$250,000 in the pockets of students who take introductory physics courses at the school. A unique partnership between the NCSU Libraries and the Department of Physics has made the required textbook for Physics 211 and 212 openly available online to the NC State community.

The traditional physics textbook sells for \$150-\$190; 1300 students take the introductory courses in an average year. The newly adopted text, *Physics Fundamentals* by Dr. Vincent Coletta, is available online through the Libraries' web site. The new e-text arrangement translates into nearly one quarter of a million dollars of potential savings for NC State students and their families.

Although students are increasingly embracing electronic means of learning, the economics of the publishing industry, the desire to pay authors a fair price for their work, and all too often the weight of tradition have made such arrangements rare, even as text prices have escalated up to 40% in the last five years. Encouraged by the desire of the Physics Department to break the mold, the NCSU Libraries was able to strike a deal to purchase a site license for the digital text for all NC State students, faculty, and staff. Key to the new model was the change in approach by the Physics Department along with the innovative approach to publishing supported by Dr. Coletta and his publisher, Physics Curriculum & Instruction. Students who feel most comfortable with hard copy can buy a paper black-and-white version of the e-text at a small additional fee.

North Carolina State University Breaks Ground on Iconic New Library

North Carolina State University officials today broke ground on a new state-of-the-art library for its Centennial Campus that, through its innovative design and technological sophistication, will set the standard for 21st century academic and research libraries. According to Susan Nutter, vice provost and director of the NCSU Libraries, the new [James B. Hunt Jr. Library](#)-- named for the former four-term North Carolina governor--"seeks nothing less than to create the best learning and collaborative space in the country."



The 1,334-acre Centennial Campus serves as NC State's research park and is home to more than 120 government, industry, and university partners who work collaboratively to drive growth in North Carolina and to work on some of the planet's most pressing problems. The campus was named outstanding research park by the Association of University Research Parks (AURP) in 2007.

The Hunt Library will be a signature building that will serve as the intellectual and social heart of the rapidly growing population on the Centennial Campus, embodying the essence of the research park as a community built around knowledge. Anchoring the Centennial Campus' academic oval, the new library will embody the spirit of NC State's competitive advantage in science and technology and will be a major factor in attracting and retaining the best faculty, students, and corporate partners.

The Hunt Library will also begin to provide a much-needed solution for the shortage of study seating at the university. The NCSU Libraries can currently seat less than 5% of NC State

students at a time when use of the Libraries is growing dramatically. In April 2008, for example, the Libraries averaged over 16,000 visits a day; visits increased by 42% in the last academic year alone. The UNC system standard is to provide study seating for 20% of students. The Hunt Library will double the NCSU Libraries' available study seats.

The library, located in the center of much of NC State's engineering, textiles, science, and technology expertise, will also continue to enhance the NCSU Libraries' role as technology incubator on campus. The NCSU Libraries has made its mark by providing generations of students and faculty with access to the latest technology. From its iconic design to the latest in computing and collaboration tools, the Hunt Library will prepare students to lead and support cutting-edge research in a technology-driven economy.

The Hunt Library will contain an automated book-retrieval system – allowing space and budget normally consumed by book “stacks” to be used for learning spaces and technologies to assist students.

Pearce Brinkley Cease + Lee Architecture (PBC+L), a North Carolina architectural firm that specializes in academic and cultural arts projects with an emphasis on higher education, will serve as architects for Hunt Library. [Snøhetta](#), the designers for the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, will serve as lead designers. Snøhetta was recently awarded the 2009 Mies van der Rohe Prize, Europe's most prestigious award for architectural excellence.

Construction is expected to be complete in 2012.

NCSU Mobile Site Puts the “Library of the Future” in Students’ Pockets

Students at North Carolina State University will no longer have to crank up their laptops while browsing the stacks if they have copied a wrong catalog number. Or tromp down nine flights of steps to check how long the line is at the library café. The NC State Libraries has continued its pioneering work in 21st century digital libraries by launching [NCSU Libraries Mobile](#) ([m.lib.ncsu.edu](#)), providing students and faculty

with the most complete of library services for mobile devices currently available.

From any mobile device with web access, students can now search the Libraries' full catalog, check the availability of library computers, find hours for all libraries and branches, interact in real time with library information experts—or even watch construction of the new [James B. Hunt Jr. Library](#) via webcam. The site automatically detects the user's device type and serves up an appropriate format. Planned functionality for the future includes the ability to reserve study rooms, make requests for any of the full array of technical devices available through the Libraries, and to place to put books on hold—all from your mobile device.



Developed by a tiger team of library staffers, NCSU Libraries Mobile builds on open source work done at MIT and on the [NC State Mobile Web](#), a site that—in the best barn-raising traditions of this land-grant institution—was cost-effectively developed by a volunteer, ad-hoc group at the university.

SOUTH CAROLINA

University of South Carolina Libraries Receive Major Churchill Collection

The University of South Carolina Libraries have received a major new gift, the Dr. E. Conyers O'Bryan, Jr. Collection of Winston S. Churchill. Dr. O'Bryan assembled this collection of the great British statesman's writings, signed books, artwork, and memorabilia over several decades so that “hundreds of people could have the opportunity

Dr. Patrick Scott, head of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections described the collection as “a significant addition to the University’s special collections in 20th-century world history, especially for the two world wars.”

The O'Bryan Collection includes more than 80 volumes of Winston S. Churchill's (1874-1964) writings published during his lifetime, many of which are first editions. Among these are: a rare copy of Churchill's first book, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force* (1897), a true-life adventure story of British military activity on the Indian frontier; copies of Churchill's only novel, *Savrola* (1899); several of his books on the Boer War in South Africa; signed presentation copies of his multi-volume biography of his ancestor, the Duke of Marlborough; and his multi-volume histories of the first and second world wars.



the bookplates of both men. One is a presentation copy of a work on Danish history given to Churchill by the King of Denmark in 1950. There are several contemporary photographs of Churchill in the collection, including one signed portrait. There is also a gentleman's silver pillbox with the initials "WSC" owned by Churchill and given to him as a birthday gift by a friend.

Conyers O'Bryan was born in Kingstree, S.C., and earned his B.A. from the University and his M.D. from the Medical University of South Carolina. He served as a Medical Officer in the United States Marines before returning to MUSC for his residency. Dr. O'Bryan is now in private practice in cardiology in Florence, S.C.

Churchill's painting "The Garden at Wilton," ca. 1935, oil on canvas

University of South Carolina Receives Gift of Unique Milton Portraits

Oil portraits of the 17th-century English poet John Milton and of his mother Sara Milton have been donated to the University of South Carolina Department of Rare Books & Special Collections by Dr. Peter Koblenzer and Dr. Carolyn Koblenzer of Philadelphia.

The John Milton portrait, depicting him as a 21-year-old Cambridge student, was painted by Benjamin VanderGucht in 1792, from an earlier portrait by Cornelius Janssen, dated 1629. For nearly two centuries VanderGucht's version was the only record of this image, as the whereabouts of the original Janssen portrait was lost till the 1960s. Commissioned by the Earl Harcourt, the VanderGucht portrait remained in his family until Dr. Koblenzer, who had been at school near the Harcourt family home, Sutton Courtenay, purchased it at auction in 1993.



Portrait of John Milton

The second painting, the only known portrait of Sara Milton, shows her in stern Puritan dress and dates from 1621. It also was probably painted by Cornelius Janssen, though a second artist, Robert Walker, who had strong Puritan connections, has also been proposed. The provenance of this painting, documented in detail from the mid-18th century forward, suggests that both it and

Janssen's portrait of John Milton may have been bought from Milton's widow by Arthur Onslow.



Portrait of Sara Milton

The Koblenzers chose the University for this gift when they learned of the library's Robert J. Wickenheiser Collection of John Milton, acquired in 2006 with the leading support of the William L. Richter Family Foundation. The portraits and selected items from the Wickenheiser Collection will be displayed together in the Richter seminar room in the new Ernest F. Hollings Special Collections Library, scheduled to open next spring.

"The Koblenzers' generous gift brings into focus the significance of the Wickenheiser Collection, both for teaching and research," said Dr. Patrick Scott, Director of Special Collections. "The continuing display of these beautiful portraits will remind visitors and students that the library has a world-class collection of one of the world's most influential poets."

University of South Carolina Libraries Receive NEH Digitization Grant

University of South Carolina librarians Kate Boyd and Craig Keeney will lead efforts to digitize select S.C. newspapers published between 1860 and 1922 using a \$350,000 two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The newspapers, now available only on microfilm, will be made accessible on the Internet through the University

Libraries' S.C. Digital Newspapers Project, a joint project of the University Libraries' Digital Activities Center and the South Caroliniana Library.

The project will involve scanning about 100,000 pages of newspaper text and providing cataloging information to enhance access to information about the artistic, literary, religious, ethnic, cultural, economic, and political events in South Carolina during one of the most eventful periods of its history. The S.C. newspapers will be mounted on the Website of "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) which presently holds more than one million pages of historic American newspapers. The site is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a program jointly sponsored by NEH and the Library of Congress.

This project will capitalize on the Digital Activities Center staff members' management and technical experience in digitizing such cultural heritage materials as maps, manuscripts, and original newspapers and on the South Caroliniana Library staff's experience in identifying, cataloging, and microfilming newspapers. In addition, the project builds on previous collaboration between the University and NEH. In the 1980s, the University used a planning grant to inventory South Carolina newspapers and to publish *South Carolina Newspapers*, an exhaustive county-by-county reference book, edited by Dr. John Hammond Moore. In the 1990s, the University Libraries cataloged 1,249 newspaper titles and filmed 990,332 pages with financial support from the NEH United States Newspaper Program (USNP).

Boyd, who heads the Digital Activities Center, said, "For over 200 years, librarians at this institution have acquired, collected, preserved manuscripts and printed materials and have made them accessible to users. I hope that this next step towards even more accessibility to South Carolina newspapers will capture people's interest in South Carolina and American history from around the world. We are excited to bring these invaluable primary resources to the people through free access on the Web."

Remarking on the timeliness of the project, Keeney who is cataloger for the Published Materials Division of South Caroliniana Library

said, "The 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War in 2011 offers our nation an opportunity to re-examine the war's origins and impact.

As South Carolinians played significant roles during and after the Civil War, it is crucially important that South Carolina newspapers spanning the years 1860 to 1922 be made available to researchers through the 'Chronicling America' online database."

PEOPLE NEWS

ALABAMA

The Birmingham Public Library Board has appointed **Irene S. "Renee" Blalock** Director of the Birmingham Public Library. Blalock's career at the Library has spanned 30 years. She has served as branch head at Parke Memorial (now Southside), Eastwood, and the Avondale Branches; as the Library's Business Manager; as coordinator of the Southern Branch Region; and as Coordinator for Library Operations. In 1994 she was named Associate Director of the Central Library and moved to the Associate Director of Community Services (over the branch libraries) in 1998, the position she occupied until the Board's appointment on May 28.

In her long career at the BPL, Blalock has made important improvements to the system. She supervised the reorganization of the Library's management team and the creation of an administrative services division. She was part of the team that established and wrote the system-wide collection management policy. She oversaw numerous enhancements to the branch libraries, collections, and furnishings including major renovations at the Avondale and Springville Road Branches. She was project manager overseeing construction of two new buildings for the Five Points West and West End Branches.